



# Department of Municipal Licenses and Inspections

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Charles C. Kokoros  
Mayor

Date: May 18, 2020  
TO: Places of Worship  
FROM: Marybeth McGrath, Director of the Health & Building Department  
RE: **PHASE 1: COVID-19 REOPENING REQUIREMENTS**

**Please find below the PHASE 1- COVID-19 REOPENING REQUIREMENTS, as follows:**

Slowing the spread of COVID-19 requires the cooperation of all of us. The plan to re-open the economy safely requires that everyone do their part, and we expect most people will be diligent about keeping themselves and their neighbors safe and healthy.

**Permitted Activities:**

Phase 1 of the re-opening plan keeps in place existing restrictions, advisories and guidance, but provides exceptions for certain activities that can resume safely.

*What Can Individuals Do?*

- A new “stay safer at home” advisory requests that individuals stay at home when they can. However, [all individuals are required to wear a face covering in most places when outside of the home.](#) The requirement to wear a face covering is enforceable by the Braintree Health Department.
- All individuals remain subject to the existing order [limiting gatherings to no more than 10 persons,](#) except in unconfined outdoor spaces. The restriction on gathering size is enforceable by the Braintree Health Department. This limitation does not apply to workplaces authorized to operate, but more specific capacity and meeting rules will apply.
- Compliance with the mandatory rules outlined above is enforceable by the Braintree Health Department up to and including the issuance of civil fines of up to \$300 per violation.

*What Can Businesses Do?*

- Essential services have been allowed to operate prior to first phase or reopening. **Currently operating businesses MUST come into compliance with new workplace safety standards by May 25.**
- In addition, the businesses listed in the table below will be permitted to resume operations on May 18 or May 25. **All other businesses and workplaces remain closed through Phase 1.** No business is required to re-open and may not reopen until it is ready.

<b><u>May 18</u></b>	<b><u>May 25</u></b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Essential businesses already operating must self-certify and comply with applicable standards by May 25 or July 1.</li><li>▪ Manufacturing</li><li>▪ Construction</li><li>▪ Retail curbside pickup only</li><li>▪ Places of worship (40% occupancy limit)</li><li>▪ Firearms retailers and shooting ranges</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>▪ Laboratories and life sciences facilities</li><li>▪ Offices limited to &lt; 25% maximum occupancy; work from home strongly encouraged. (Boston office opening delayed to June 1.)</li><li>▪ Car Washes exterior and self-service only</li><li>▪ Hair salons/barber shops by appointment only</li><li>▪ Pet grooming by appointment (curbside drop-off and pick-up)</li><li>▪ Certain outdoor recreational facilities and activities</li></ul>

- All operating businesses must comply with general [\*\*mandatory workplace safety standards\\*\\*\*\*](#), as well as [\*\*sector-specific workplace standards and protocols \\*\\*\*\*](#) where applicable. Note that some specific sector and workplace standards and protocols are mandatory (actions that “must” be taken), while others are best practice guidance (actions that “should” be taken). Inspector of Buildings will be notifying the Places of Worship of what their 40% occupancy limit will be.

### **Enforcement of Workplace Safety Standards**

- Only essential services and businesses specifically designated for reopening can operate in phase 1. In order to open or continue operation, all businesses must:
  - Develop a written COVID-19 safety plan outlining how will prevent the spread of COVID-19.
  - Self-certify that it will operate in compliance with all applicable and mandatory workplace safety standards. [\*\*A template is attached to assist you\\*\\*.\*\*](#)
  - Produce this self-certification, if requested, by the local board of health, Department of Labor Standards (DLS) or Department of Public Health (DPH). Failure or refusal to produce the self-certification upon request is grounds for enforcement action.
- Workplace safety standards are enforced jointly by the local boards of health and DLS. Enforcement can be initiated by either the local board of health or DLS, whichever entity is called in first by a person filing a complaint. DLS and each municipal authority shall uniformly apply any enforceable COVID-19 workplace safety rule.
- The goal of enforcement is to educate and promote compliance. It is our hope that establishments will be diligent about compliance with reopening requirements before any enforcement action were to become necessary by the Braintree Health Department or the DLS.

### **\*\* Attached to this document to assist you are with reopening requirements:**

- Template COVID-19 Safety Control Plan;
- Self-Certification Control Plan Checklist;
- Places of Worship-MA Safety Standards;
- Employer Guidance -Mandatory Safety Standards for Workplaces;
- Reopening Guidance: Purchasing Hygienic or Protective Supplies for the Workplace;
- Informational from Mass.gov- Reopening: When can my business reopen?

Should you have any questions, please feel free to call the Braintree Health Department at (781) 794-8090 or email: [mmcgrath@braintreema.gov](mailto:mmcgrath@braintreema.gov) , and we will respond back to you as soon as possible.